

CALIFORNIA MEXICAN AMERICAN VETERANS' MEMORIAL BEAUTIFICATION AND ENHANCEMENT COMMISSION

- ❑ What were the reasons for establishing the entities proposed for reorganization and how has this public need changed?

The California Mexican American Veterans' Memorial Beautification and Enhancement Commission was established in 1993, as the result of AB 1350 (Polanco) to formalize a non-governmental committee of citizens actively involved in raising money for the maintenance and enhancement of a memorial for Mexican American veterans. The bill authorized the beautification and enhancement of an existing memorial on state grounds, and authorized a commission to establish a schedule for its design, construction, and dedication; to solicit designs and devise a process for selection of the final design; and to monitor construction.

The commission has no significant activity for quite some time now. It has not held any public meetings or performed any of the described duties for at least a year and a half. Except for a small group of supporters, public awareness of the commission and its mission is minimal to non-existent. This existing memorial is already within the area of responsibility of the Department of General Services, Building and Grounds Division (the entity to which the functions will be transferred).

- ❑ Which functions will be eliminated by the reorganization, and which functions will be performed differently as a result of the reorganization?

There have not been any significant activities by the commission or its members in the recent past, including public meetings, fundraising or memorial enhancements.

When this commission is eliminated, the Department of General Services will continue to bear responsibility for the maintenance of the existing memorial on the grounds near Capitol Park. If private funds are raised for the purpose of enhancing or beautifying the memorial, advisory groups could be impaneled under the purview of the Agency Secretary on an *ad hoc* basis. The Secretary can also obtain expert advice from professional associations or through consulting contracts as needed, on an *ad hoc* basis.

The California Department of Veterans Affairs, as part of its mission to serve veterans, will continue to work with veterans groups and individual veterans on issues of importance to them.

- ❑ For each board or commission proposed for absorption into your agency, please describe the structure, process, number and type of positions that will fulfill these functions.

N/A. This commission is to be eliminated and its functions absorbed by the Department of General Services.

- ❑ What savings (if any) will be captured as a result of the reorganization? What will be done with those savings and how will they be accounted for in the budget?

The commission members receive no compensation and the activities of the commission are fully funded by special accounts. There will be no General Fund savings.

- ❑ For boards or commissions that are proposed for elimination, who are the appointing authorities, what are the qualifications for membership, the terms of office and the compensation?

The commission is composed of 11 members. Two members are appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly, at least one of whom shall be a member of the Assembly, and at least one of whom shall be a veteran. Two members are appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules, at least one of whom shall be a member of the Senate, and at least one of whom shall be a veteran. Seven members are appointed by the Governor, at least two of whom shall be veterans. Members of the Legislature shall serve on the commission as ex officio members without vote and shall participate in the activities of the commission to the extent that the participation is not incompatible with their legislative duties. There are no specified terms. Members of the commission receive no compensation.

- ❑ For boards or commissions that are created by the reorganization, who are the appointing authorities, what are the qualifications for membership, the terms of office and the compensation?

N/A. This commission is to be eliminated and its functions absorbed by the Department of General Services.

- ❑ How will the new organization guard against special interests inappropriately influencing decision-makers?

The functions of the commission will be transferred to the Department of General Services. The inactivity of the existing commission in recent years, and the apparent lack of public awareness of, or interest in its mission, do not suggest the likelihood of any inappropriate special interest influence on the decision-makers.

The mission of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA) is to promote and deliver the benefits provided by the grateful State of California to its deserving veterans and their families. Thus, oversight of the memorials is not an activity directly related to this mission and the function is appropriately transferred to the Department of General Services.

- ❑ How will the public be better served by reorganizing these boards or commissions and how will this improvement be measured and reported?

Because the current commission has been basically inactive for the past few years, any of the public interested in this veterans memorial will be better served by knowing who they can contact (the Department of General Services) with any concerns or support they may wish to express. By eliminating a commission that

has not functioned for so long, the public is also better served by knowing that existing boards and commissions are truly effective and worthwhile in serving the people.